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House and Senate concur, call for aquatic species regulation

Lansing – Legislation to protect the Great Lakes and Michigan’s many inland waters from non-native and genetically engineered species received overwhelming support in the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives this week.

“As the ‘Great Lakes State’ it is vital that Michigan lead the effort to protect our lakes and rivers from non-native species,” said Sen. Alan Sanborn, sponsor of Senate Bill 228. “If you are at all aware of what is happening with the non-indigenous Asian and Bighead Carp species that escaped into the Mississippi River system from commercial fish farms – and the devastation they are wreaking on native fish populations – you understand the necessity for this legislation.”

Senate Bills 226-229 prohibit the possession and release of non-native and genetically engineered fish without a permit, establish penalties for violations, and regulate the importation of live game fish.

Two additional bills, Senate Bills 214 and 215, establish penalties and sentencing guidelines for possessing or releasing prohibited species. They were passed by the Senate in October.

SBs 226-229 now go to the governor.

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